

# The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings –

encompassing

St Matthew's, Hastings St Peter's, Riverslea

*Christian communities in the heart of Hastings*

**The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple**

**28<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**

**The Gathering of the People**

*Opening Hymn:*

*Chorus:*

*I am the Light of the World*

*You people come and follow me.*

*If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery*

*Of what you were meant to do and be.*

**When the song of the angels is stilled.**

**When the star in the sky is gone.**

**When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.**

**The work of Christmas is begun!**

**To find the lost and lonely one,**

**To heal that broken soul with love,**

**To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,**

**To feel the earth below the sky above!**

**To free the prisoner from all chains,**

**To make the powerful care,**

**To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,**

**To see God's children everywhere!**

**To bring hope to every task you do,**

**To dance at a baby's new birth,**

**To make music in an old person's heart,**

**And sing to the our Lord in heav'n above!**



*Words: Jim Stathdee*

This is the day which the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

E te whānau a te Karaiti, having celebrated the birth and Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ. We now recall the day on which he was presented at the temple, when he was offered to God and shown to the people. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him and proclaimed him with joy. In this Eucharist we shall recognise him in the breaking of the bread and proclaim him with joy. As we celebrate his coming among us we also look forward to the coming days of his passion.

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
    we worship you, we give you thanks,  
    we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
    have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
    receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
    Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
    in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*We sit or kneel*

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of God:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

*Silence*

God forgives you.  
Be at peace.

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
**The word of Christ dwell in us richly.**

*Collect:*

Everliving God,  
your Son Jesus Christ was presented as a child in the temple  
to be the hope of your people;  
**grant us pure hearts and minds  
that we may be transformed into his likeness,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever. Amen.**

## **The Proclamation**

### **The Readings**

*First reading: Malachi 3:1-4*

*The prophet promises that, as the day of the Lord's judgement  
draws near, God will send a messenger to ready the way.*

*After the reading:*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 84*

How lovely is your dwelling-place:  
**Lord God of power and might.**

My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord:  
**my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

The sparrow finds for herself a house:  
**and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young.**

Even so have the singers a home at your altars:  
**they stand always praising you my king and my God.**

O Lord God of hosts:  
**blessèd are those who dwell in your house.**

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you:  
**who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.**

Going through the arid valley,  
they find a spring from which to drink:  
**the early rain covers it with pools of water.**

They go from strength to strength:  
**and appear every one before God in Jerusalem.**

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:  
**give ear O God of Jacob.**

Show favour O God to the king our defender:  
**and look upon the face of your anointed prince.**

Truly one day in your courts:  
**is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God:  
**than live in the homes of the wicked.**

For the Lord God is a defence and shield,  
the Lord will give grace and honour:  
**and no good thing will be withheld  
from those who live a blameless life.**

O Lord God of hosts:  
**blessèd are those who put their trust in you.**

*Second reading: Hebrews 2:14-18*

*Jesus has shared in all aspects of human life. By experiencing death, he has broken the power of death over humankind.*

*After the reading:*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Hymn:*

Faithful vigil ended,  
watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant your servant  
his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised,  
all the Father willed,  
now these eyes behold it  
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance  
sets your people free;  
Christ their light uplifted  
all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!  
watching, doubting cease:  
grant to us your servants  
our discharge in peace.

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith Tune: Pastor pastorum*

*We remain standing*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:22-40  
**Praise and glory to God.**

*The infant Jesus is brought to the temple to be presented to the  
Lord in accordance with the law.*

*After the reading:*

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ the Word.**

## **The Sermon**

### **Prayers of the People**

God of love, your faithful servants Simeon and Anna  
watched in hope for the fulfilment of your promises.  
Give to your Church the same patience, trust, and longing...  
Reveal the light of your glory.  
Loving God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of love, Simeon spoke of your son as a sign that will be opposed.  
Open the hearts of the powerful and save them from arrogance that  
creates division and strife...

Make us all agents of your peace and justice.

Loving God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of love, Mary and Joseph made the traditional offering for their  
first born. Be with all new parents as they care for and nurture their  
children...

Bless all who give support with parenting and with the children and  
staff in our school as they begin a new year.

Loving God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of love, Simeon spoke of the sword that would pierce Mary's  
soul. Hear the cries of those who watch and wait by the side of loved  
ones in distress and serious illness...

Be present with those who are sick and suffering and gift them with  
your peace...

We wait on your love and kindness O Lord.

Loving God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of love, Anna spoke to all who looked for redemption. Shine into  
the darkness of death and grief your light of hope and give leave to  
your faithful ones to depart in your peace.

Hear our prayer for all who have died...

May our eyes come to see your salvation.

Loving God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God, of love

your Son Jesus Christ was presented as a child in the temple  
to be the hope of your people;

**grant us pure hearts and minds**

**that we may be transformed into his likeness.**

**Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen**

## **The Peace**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high has broken upon us, to shine on those in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **The Preparation of the Gifts**

*Offertory Hymn:*

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

*Refrain*

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.**

*Refrain*

**Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.**

*Refrain*

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.**

*Refrain*

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.**

*Refrain*

*Bernadette Farrell 1993.*

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness, and the power,  
and the glory, and the victory and the majesty.

**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours,  
and of your own we give you.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*We remain standing though please sit if needs be.*

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Honour and worship are indeed your due,  
our Lord and our God, through Jesus Christ,  
for you created all things;  
by your will they were created,  
and for your glory they have their being.

In your loving purpose you chose us  
before the foundation of the world to be your people;  
you gave your promises to Abraham and Sarah  
and bestowed your favour on the Virgin Mary.

Above all we give you thanks and praise  
for your grace in sending Jesus Christ,  
not for any merit of our own  
but when we had turned away from you.



In him we see you, the eternal God,  
revealing your glory in our flesh,  
for he is the light of the nations who illuminates our darkness.

We were bound in sin,  
but in your compassion you redeemed us,  
reconciling us to yourself with the precious blood of Christ.

In your Son you suffered with us and for us,  
offering us the healing riches of salvation  
and calling us to freedom and holiness.

Therefore with people of every nation, tribe and language,  
with the whole Church on earth and in heaven,  
joyfully we give you thanks and say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and honour to you, God of grace,  
for you gave your only Son Jesus Christ  
once for all on the cross  
to be the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
The night before he died, he took bread,  
and when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup,  
and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you,  
for this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Therefore heavenly Father,  
in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son,  
we now celebrate the wonder of your grace  
and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come in glory.**

Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness,  
we were far off until you brought us near  
and our hands are empty until you fill them.  
As we eat this bread and drink this wine,  
through the power of your Holy Spirit  
feed us with your heavenly food,  
renew us in your service, unite us in Christ,  
and bring us to your everlasting kingdom.  
O the depths and riches of your wisdom, O God;  
how unsearchable are your judgments  
and untraceable your ways.

**From you, and through you, and for you are all things.  
To you be the glory for ever. Amen.**

## **The Communion**

As Christ teaches us we pray, singing

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The priest breaks the bread in silence*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.**

### **The Invitation**

Come God's people,  
come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

### **Prayer After Communion**

God of glory,  
you nourish us with bread from heaven.  
**Fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
that through us your light may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with grace to trust his promises and obey his will, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always. **Amen.**

*Final Hymn:*

**Praise to God, whose Holy Spirit  
formed the life in Mary's womb,  
won the trust of gentle Joseph:  
praise to God for Jesus' home.  
We give thanks for those who loved him  
fed his body, shaped his mind;  
all who helped to make him holy  
blessed, through him, all humankind.**

**Poor the home where humble parents  
lived and worked beside the boy:  
poor in comforts and possessions,  
rich in wisdom, love and joy.**

**Here was suffering met with courage,  
here God's will was daily done;  
rich indeed the home where Jesus  
grew as God's beloved Son.**

**Faithful Israel's son and daughter,  
chosen from the chosen race,  
we will honour you and praise you,  
first to see God's human face.  
Heirs of Abraham and Sarah,  
you bring us, through Jesus' birth,  
every blessing God has promised  
all the families of earth.**

*Marnie Barrell, tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH*

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.  
**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

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